

July 13, 2010

Joe Myers, Vice-President
Cooper's Ferry Development Association, Inc.
Camden Waterfront
One Port Center
2 Riverside Drive - Suite 501
Camden, New Jersey 08103

Dear Mr. Myers:

This is in response to your November 13, 2009 and May 26, 2010 letters in support of the Cooper's Ferry Development Association's request for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for the Pyne Poynt Park rehabilitation project in North Camden. The project is expected to be partially funded through a federal Special Appropriation Act grant.

As you indicated, the proposed project was developed in accordance with the environmental agenda and goals outlined in the community's North Camden Neighborhood Plan. Specifically, the project would alleviate frequent flooded conditions on the park's playing fields and the roadways around them. To accomplish this, the proposed project involves regrading and reconstructing the park's parking areas and playing fields (baseball, basketball, handball, soccer, and a playground) to ensure proper drainage, and replacing the area's existing deteriorated concrete drainage channels with vegetated grass swales to improve drainage and the quality of the stormwater leaving the site. Native plant species will be incorporated into the landscape design concept.

The project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 6.204(a)(1)(ii). This category includes "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water, an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water, or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Additionally, the available information you provided concerning the proposed action indicates that none of the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10), are present.

Based on our review, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion,
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist, or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Furthermore, EPA strongly encourages project sponsors to incorporate green practices into all phases of a project, including planning, design, and construction. Such practices can promote sustainable infrastructure, support development of a “green” workforce, and reduce long-term operation and maintenance costs. For your information, we are enclosing a fact sheet that identifies a variety of recommendations that should be given consideration in future projects. EPA hopes to see green practices incorporated as a standard part of future projects in the City of Camden.

Please note that this CATEX will be made available on EPA Region 2’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm>. Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

Enclosure